

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

FDRE-00 VO-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 INSE-00 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-02 H-02 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3512

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 7650

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, TH

SUBJ: PAROLE OF CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND

REF: A) STATE 096189 B) STATE 097870

C) ZANGKOK 6761 D) BANGKOK 7413

E) STATE 097869

SUMMARY. THERE ARE ABOUT 6,000 KHMER REFUGEES IN THAILAND. BESIDES THE 1,200 EVACUATED BY THE USG OR WHO WERE USG EMPLOYEES THERE ARE MANY OTHERS HERE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE. IT IS URGED THAT AN ADDITIONAL 1,200 OF THESE BE INCLUDED IN THE 5,000 PAROLES APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS AND THAT VOLUNTARY AGENCIES QUICKLY PROVIDE REQUIRED ASSURANCES FOR THEM. END SUMMARY

1. REFTEL A STATED CONGRESS HAD APPROVED PAROLE INTO THE US OF APPROXIMATELY 5,000 CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS AND OTHER CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THIRD COUNTRIES WHO MAY FACE FORCIBLE RETURN OR EXPULSION. SPECIFIC MENTION WAS MADE OF CAMBODIAN LEADERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THAILAND, WHERE ABOUT 6,000 KHMER HAVE FLED.

2. THE EMBASSY ESTIMATED ON APRIL 18 THAT THERE WERE 500 MORE PERSONS IN THAILAND BESIDES THOSE EVACUATED BY THE U.S.

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GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD MEET PAROLE CRITERIA (REFTEL C). BY

APRIL 25 THE EMBASSY HAD RAISED THIS NUMBER TO 1,400. THIS LARGE INCREASE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT NEARLY 500 MAP FUNDED KHMER TRAINEES AND DEPENDENTS OMITTED IN THE EARLIER ESTIMATE AND ADDED LARGER NUMBER OF KHMER MILITARY AND GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS WHO CONTINUED TO ARRIVE IN THAILAND AFTER EAGLE PULL. THE NUMBER IS NOW LOWERED TO 1,200 BECAUSE 3 BOATLOADS OF KHMER DID NOT REACH THAILAND AS EXPECTED.

3. THE 5,000 POTENTIAL PAROLES FOR KHMER RESUGEES APPROVED BY CONGRESS WILL EASILY COVER THE 2,300 POTENTIAL KHMER

PAROLEES IN THAILAND THOSE EVACUATED BY THE USG AND 1,200 OTHERS)#

4. DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS ARE THAT THE EMBASSY MAY ENTERTAIN KHMER REQUESTS FOR PAROLES TO THE UNITED STATES ONLY AFTER KHMER REFUGEES HAVE FAILED IN APPROACHES TO THE THAI GOVERNMENT FOR ASYLUM AND TO INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES FOR RESETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE.

5. A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL REAFFIRMED ON APRIL 28, THAT THE RTG POLICY AT PRESENT IS TO TURN DOWN ALL REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM. THE CURRENT RTG GOAL IS FOR KHMER REFUGEES TO DEPART THAILAND OR BE RETURNED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO CAMBODIA.

6. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNHCR HAS REPEATEDLY STATED HE HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS OFFICE NOR ANY MEANS TO ASSIST CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN THAILAND. THE ICRC REPRESENTATIVE STATES THAT HE CAN HELP ONLY WITH TRAVEL DOCUMENTS PROVIDING REFUGEES HAVE A PLACE TO GO, AND A WAY TO GET THERE. ICEM IS WILLING TO HELP ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION AND IS ALREADY ASSISTING IN PROCESSING, BUT AS OF THIS MOMENT HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ALTE ATIP RESETTLEMENT POSSIBILITIES ASIDE FROM THE UNITED STATES.

7. AS SHOWN IN PARAS 4-6 ABOVE, THESE ADDITIONAL KHMER REFUGEES MUST MEET THE CRITERIA FOR PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES.
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THEY MAY BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR CATEGORIES FOR PURPOSES OF CONSIDERING THEIR ONWARD TRAVEL: A) 481 MAP FUNDED KHMER MILITARY AND DEPENDENTS; B) A VERY SMALL NUMBER WHO HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO TRAVEL TO THE US BUT DO NOT HAVE RELATIVES; JOBS OR SPONSORS TO MAKE THEM ELIGIBLE FOR A VISA; C) SOME WHO HAVE FRIENDS AND/OR RELATIVES IN THE US WHO ARE POTENTIAL SPONSORS, BUT DO NOT HAVE MONEY FOR TRAVEL; D) THE MAJORITY WHO HAVE NEITHER MONEY NOR

POTENTIAL SPONSORS IN THE US.

8. THE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED BY REFTEL E TO REMOVE 1,200
KHMER REFUGEES EVACUATED FROM CAMBODIA TO THAILAND BY THE
USG IS PROCEEDING WELL, A E IF ALL CONTINUES ON COURSE THE
BULK OF THEM WILL BE REMOVED FROM THAILAND NEXT WEEK. IT
IS URGED THAT THE ADDITIONAL 1,200 REFUGEES CITED
IN REFTEL D BE INCLUDED UNDER THE AUTHORIZED QUOTA OF 5,000
PAROLES TO THE US AND THAT THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES QUICKLY
PROVIDE THE REQUIRED ASSURANCES FOR THEM.
MASTERS

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